

Another meeting with royals 60 years after the first

Gordon Jenkins among a group of Ottawa veterans
invited to William and Kate's first official event

BY DON BUTLER

When Gordon Jenkins was 11, he had a close encounter with the current Queen, then still a princess, and her husband, Philip, during their inaugural tour of Canada in 1951.

The royal couple had journeyed by boat down the Rideau Canal to Lansdowne Park, where they were met by a group of schoolchildren, young Gordon among them.

"It was so nice because we could get so close," says Jenkins, who estimates he got within 10 feet of the visiting royals.

Jenkins can still recall the tender way Philip looked after Elizabeth, and the obvious love between them. "You could feel it," he says.

Flash forward six decades.

Jenkins, now president of the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, will get a chance Thursday to connect with another celebrated

royal couple — Elizabeth's grandson, William, and his new wife, Kate.

Jenkins, who did three peacekeeping tours in the Middle East during a 17-year career in the Canadian forces, is among a group of Ottawa-area veterans invited to the couple's first official event.

See VETERANS on page C6

WATCH a video of Gordon Jenkins talking about the Queen's 1951 visit, at

OTTAWACITIZEN.COM

/CITY